

EDITOR FOR BEHAVIORAL PHARMACOLOGY

I have found that students sometimes express surprise when they see a paper in *JEAB* describing research on the effects of drugs. They seem to think that such research belongs more properly in journals that stress physiological interventions and measures. In fact, papers on behavioral pharmacology have appeared with some regularity in *JEAB* since the first issue published in 1958. And the inclusion of such papers in a behavioral journal makes good sense.

Pharmacological agents, both naturally occurring and externally introduced, can have powerful effects on behavior. They can function as reinforcers, as discriminative stimuli, as establishing operations, and in other ways. Their effects depend on characteristics of the behavioral baseline and on aspects of the environmental conditions, current and remote, that influence and maintain behavior. Thus, an understanding of drug effects and an understanding of the variables that influence behavior go hand in hand. Indeed, the field of behavioral pharmacology has developed as a discipline in close association with behavior analysis (Barrett & Sanger, 1991; Branch, 1991), and some of the major contributors to the field of behavioral pharmacology have also contributed significantly to the development of behavior analysis.

In 1982 the position of Editor for Behavioral Pharmacology was established in acknowledgment that specialized expertise was needed to evaluate such papers properly and as a reminder of *JEAB*'s interest in the topic. Lewis R. Gollub served first in that position (1982–1983); he was followed by Marc N. Branch (1984–1988), James E. Barrett (1989–1991), and William H. Morse (1992–1996).

Since the mid-1950s, Bill Morse has been one of the leading contributors to the development of behavioral pharmacology and to the science of behavior analysis more generally (e.g., Morse, 1966). He graciously agreed to stay on as Editor for Behavioral Pharmacology for an additional six months, after the end of his term in December 1995, during the transition between editors of the journal. I have learned much from his firm but supportive decision letters, and I have greatly valued his sound advice.

Beginning with the present volume (Vol. 66), Nancy A. Ator becomes *JEAB*'s fifth Editor for Behavioral Pharmacology. Dr. Ator has made substantial contributions to behavioral pharmacology and behavior analysis through her empirical research and scholarly writing. Since January 1995, she has been serving as an Associate Editor of *JEAB*. In her new role she will continue to handle papers on a wide range of topics, but she will also have primary responsibility for papers concerned with the effects of drugs. We look forward to the continued submission of manuscripts on behavioral pharmacology.

Richard L. Shull
Editor

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